**Sensory Storytimes at Your Public Library!**

Melanie Ramsey, Hollidaysburg Area Public Library

Linda Filkosky, District Library Consultant

Kim Parker, Appalachia Intermediate Unit 08, Hollidaysburg Area School District

Shelly Beaver, Penn State University, Altoona Campus

Sensory Storytimes are traditional storytimes integrated with sensory components of touch, smell, movement, and music to benefit participants on the spectrum. These added components are fun and they benefit everyone!

What’s a sensory storytime? It’s a regular storytime plus extra awesome enrichment activities that benefit everyone. Many of these activities are things we already do naturally to make storytimes more fun. Find a community resource in your area such as a special education teacher or person who works with kids on the spectrum, and talk with them about sensory strategies for learning! Possible sensory activities include activities like walking in a circle as music plays, stretching bands, waving scarves, finding objects buried in a container of sand, using puppets of many textures, call and response songs, beanbags to scrunch, spray bottles with water, shaking maracas, and a themed bucket with different objects to touch, smell, hear and manipulate. Sensory activities benefit all participants in a storytime program, but they especially benefit children on the spectrum. Be sure to find a local resource person because there are many different strategies to consider. You may end up with new community partnerships as a result of sensory storytimes!

If you have trouble finding a local resource person, Kimberly and Shelly have agreed to help answer your questions:

Kimberly Parker, Special Education Teacher, Appalachia Intermediate Unit 08, [kparker@iu08.org](mailto:kparker@iu08.org) for general questions and practical advice

Shelly Beaver, MS, CTRS, [sls334@gmail.com](mailto:sls334@gmail.com) for more information, to set up a consultation, or to request a presentation on sensory-based disabilities and or strategies.

**Ukuleles in Your Library: Community, Friendship and Fun!**

Melanie Ramsey, Hollidaysburg Area Public Library

Mike Holzer, Allegheny Ukulele Kollective

Louise Troxell, Allegheny Ukulele Kollective

The Hollidaysburg Area Public Library and the Allegheny Ukulele Kollective have developed a partnership to bring circulating ukuleles and free ukulele programs to their community. All ages and abilities welcome!

Ukuleles are portable, relatively inexpensive, popular, and approachable instruments that are extremely useful for community enjoyment. You can learn in a group or alone. There is a rich history of ukulele community groups and solo performers and it is only increasing! Many internet resources are available and there are likewise many good ukulele books and CDs for learning. Library ukuleles are easy to circulate and not hard to tune. (My Dog Has Fleas!)

Most ukulele clubs offer jams and activities. Find one or start one today!

Internet links:

Regarding the library lending program: <http://alleghenyukes.com/allegheny-ukes-library-lending-program>

Allegheny Ukulele Kollective’s homepage at <http://alleghenyukes.com/> or email them at [alleghenyukes@gmail.com](mailto:alleghenyukes@gmail.com)

Recommended books: (there are many; here are two good ones)

The Daily Ukulele by Jim Beloff (get the comb binding so it will stay open easily) and other ukulele books by Jim Beloff

Hal Leonard Ukuklele Method Book I with CD by Lil’ Rev

The **Allegheny Ukulele Kollective** is teaming up with local and regional libraries to provide an opportunity to bring music home! Beginning in summer 2015, libraries will be given 2-3 ukulele kits which will be able to be checked out by library patrons. The kits will include a ukulele, gig bag, tuner, instructional songbook, and other useful information about playing the uke.

We anticipate training at least one librarian at each library to play the uke so that they're able to give a potential uke player the basics.

There are many libraries in our 5-county target region. We plan to roll out the program over the course of the summer and into the fall as finances allow.

Implementation Plan:

* Blair County (8 libraries)
* Cambria County (14 libraries)
* Bedford County (4 libraries)
* Huntingdon County (1 library)
* Centre County (5 libraries)

**The goal of the Allegheny Ukes Library Lending Program is to give back to our communities and to increase public awareness and membership in our club.**

**Allegheny Ukes Library Lending Program Sponsors & Partners:**

*The Allegheny Ukulele Kollective receives state arts funding support through a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.*

